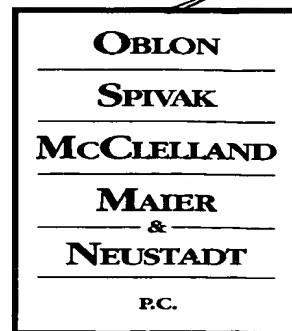




Docket No.: 0010-1057-0

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

STEPHEN G. BAXTER  
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RE: Application Serial No.: 09/441,055  
Applicants: Yoshihiro USUDA, et al.  
Filing Date: November 16, 1999  
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-METHIONINE BY  
FERMENTATION  
Group Art Unit: 1652

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**Status Request for Examiner's Answer (in duplicate)**

Our check in the amount of **\$0.00** is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon

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DOCKET NO.: 0010-1057-0/ah

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICATION OF:

Yoshihiro USUDA, et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/441,055

GROUP NO: 1652

FILED: November 16, 1999

FOR: METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-METHIONINE BY FERMENTATION

**STATUS REQUEST FOR EXAMINER'S ANSWER**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to inform the undersigned of the approximate date on which the Examiner's Answer will be made on this Application.

A duplicate of this letter is enclosed for your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

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